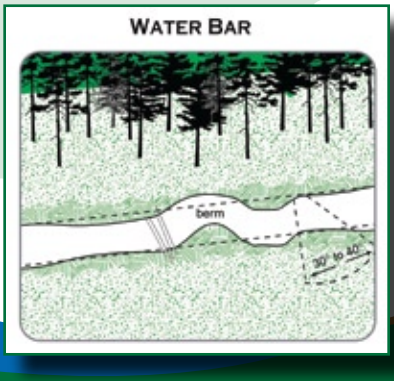
Skid Trails

- Use existing trails if they provide the best long-term access. Consider relocating existing trails if both access and environmental impact can be improved.
- Consider the topography in the location of skid trails and avoid steep slopes whenever possible.
- Where possible, keep bladed or dozed skid trail grades to less than 25 percent. Where steep grades are unavoidable, frequent grade breaks are recommended. Install drainage structures and use soil stabilization practices where needed to minimize runoff and erosion.
- Overland or dispersed skidding on steep slopes should not exceed 35 percent or when bare soil areas provide potential for channelized flow.
- Skid trails should be located outside the SMZ.
- Any skid trail that must cross a perennial stream, intermittent stream or drainage ditch should use a bridge or culvert of acceptable design (see Stream Crossing Section). *Logs shall not be dragged through an intermittent or perennial stream at any time.*

Skid Trails

- Lay out skid trails to use low-value trees as "bumper trees" at turns to reduce residual tree damage.
- Install water turnouts 25 feet prior to a stream crossing to direct surface runoff into undisturbed areas of the SMZ.
- A brush mat of logging slash can be used to stabilize skid trails on stream crossing approaches. This alleviates rutting and firms up the running surface.
- Rutting should be avoided whenever possible and especially where it causes channelized erosion. If rutting is unavoidable, concentrated skidding may be used to reduce the amount of disturbance, *but in no instance may channelized erosion be allowed to direct sediment into a stream channel.*



Skid Trails

- Upon completion of skidding activity, water bars should be installed immediately in areas subject to erosion.

Table 5 Water Bar Spacing	
Road Grade (%)	**Distance Between Water Bars (ft.)**
2	250
5	135
10	80
15	60
20	45
30	35

Skid Trails

- Watch the weather forecast and plan ahead for severe storms.
- All woods roads and skid trails should be repaired, smoothed and seeded after logging, and be left in a stable condition to resist erosion.